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## Media Relations Information for 04/16/2013

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## La Porte PD encourages using Home Inventory Sheets

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, almost 15 million people are victims of theft and other property-related crimes each year in the U.S. The City of La Porte is not an exception to this disturbing trend, and the La Porte Police Department is encouraging citizens to take steps to aid investigators in recovering personal property should it be stolen. To locate stolen items, investigators rely heavily on detailed descriptions of personal property. However, without specific product and/or manufacturer's information, the likelihood of recovery is significantly diminished.

Therefore, to aid in the recovery process, as well as assist citizens in maintaining a record of their personal valuables, La Porte Police Department has posted a printable property inventory form along their website to assist residents in the recording of information and identifiers regarding their personal valuables.

Residents are asked to complete the form in the presence of one or more family members, as to ensure all items are considered. Once completed, the form should be kept in a safe place, or placed in an on-line computer file, where it can be immediately accessed and provided to the police following any type of Burglary or Theft. Additionally, police ask that residents take close-up photos of items without serial numbers, such as jewelry, heirlooms, or other unique items.

In the event an inventory form is turned over to police, victims of crime can then rest assured that the best and most efficient efforts to track their property are being made, as officers can quickly enter the serial numbers from the stolen items into National Criminal Information Center and detectives can begin searching for the property using various other databases at their disposal.

To access the Home Inventory Sheet, log onto the La Porte Police Department website and look under the "Useful Citizen Forms" link along the left-hand margin. Once the list of forms becomes visible, select "Home Inventory Sheet" and print the form for easy completion. Furthermore, if you have been the victim of a Theft, Burglary, or any other crime, please contact the La Porte Police Department as soon as possible at 281-471-2141.